

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain pending in the present application. The rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully traversed below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kashihara et al. (USP 6,571,147) in view of Nguyen (USP 6,202,070), in further view of McCain et al. (USP 6,330,482).

In response to the Amendment dated June 25, 2003, the Office Action made the new primary reference to Kashihara. The additional references to Nguyen and McCain remain the same as in prior Office Actions. However, it is submitted that nothing in the cited prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention.

For instance, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the handling and use of “customer-inputted information and maintenance information *obtained during operation of the manufacturing machine by customers in an industrial manufacturing facility before designing a new manufacturing machine*” as recited in amended claim 1. For such features, the Office Action appears to have relied primarily on the reference to Nguyen. However, Nguyen only discloses customer specification of specific components for the configuration of the customer's computer.

As described in the present specification, the present claimed information management system for manufacturing machine provides a unified management that incorporates information from numerous sources, including information gained during the operation of the manufacturing machine concerning defects and wishes of the customers that is used for the design of a new manufacturing machine (see, e.g., page 13). The incorporation of such new information gained from the customers' use of the manufacturing machine, as well as maintenance information, improves the design of a new manufacturing machine. The mere specification of desired components, as disclosed in Nguyen, does not at all teach or suggest such the present claimed features regarding the handling and use of "customer-inputted information and maintenance information *obtained during operation of the manufacturing machine by customers in an industrial manufacturing facility before designing a new manufacturing machine*". For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Kong', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

John P. Kong
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 40,054

JPK/jli

1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 700
Washington, D. C. 20036
202-822-1100 (t)
202-822-1111 (f)